WHAT WE BELIEVE

Standing on Truth. Extending Grace.

Cross & Grace Ministries | Because No One Is Beyond Grace

A message about the Gospel, biblical convictions, and sharing truth with humility.

Opening

At Cross & Grace Ministries, we believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the greatest message the world will ever hear.

We believe God's Word is true. We believe sin is real, repentance matters, and salvation is found only through Jesus Christ.

And we believe the people who need to hear that message should never be treated as though they are beyond the reach of God's grace.

Maybe you've heard us talk about compassion, about people who feel unwelcome, or about reaching those whose lives look different from ours. And maybe you've wondered where we stand.

Today, we want to answer that plainly. Not by giving you a list of everything we're against, but by sharing what we believe, and how those beliefs shape the way we treat people.

Because we believe truth and grace belong together.

The Word of God

First, we believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority for faith and conduct.

Second Timothy 3:16 says, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

We don't get to rewrite Scripture to suit the culture around us. But neither do we get to ignore the passages that tell us to love our neighbors, show mercy, and walk in humility.

If we're going to stand on God's Word, we must be willing to let all of it speak—including the parts that confront our own hearts.

God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit

We believe in one God, eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin, lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, was buried, and bodily rose again on the third day. He ascended into heaven, and He will return.

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, gives new life to those who believe, indwells believers, and leads them in truth.

Jesus said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

At the center of this ministry is not a personality, a program, or a movement. At the center is Jesus Christ.

Sin, Salvation, and Repentance

Romans 3:23 tells us, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

All. That includes the pastor, the longtime church member, the person who has never been to church, and me.

We believe God defines sin through His Word. We believe repentance is part of the Gospel call. Jesus said in Mark 1:15, “repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

But we also believe none of us can make ourselves good enough to earn salvation.

In Ephesians 2:8–9, we read, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

We believe salvation is through faith in Jesus Christ alone, because of what He accomplished through His death and resurrection. We believe those who have genuinely been saved are secure in Him, and that following Christ brings a call to grow in obedience.

We cannot preach repentance to others while refusing to examine our own sin. We cannot act as though the sins we recognize in someone else make us better than they are.

People do not need the Gospel because they've already cleaned up their lives. They need the Gospel because they cannot save themselves. And those of us who have trusted Christ must never forget that we were saved by that very same grace.

Marriage, Sexuality, and Human Dignity

We also want to be clear about something people may wonder because we talk often about welcoming others.

We believe God created mankind male and female and established marriage as the covenant union of one man and one woman. Jesus affirmed that pattern in Matthew chapter 19.

Scripture references: Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4–6; Romans 1:26–27; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11.

We believe sexual intimacy belongs within that marriage covenant. We do not affirm same-sex sexual relationships as consistent with that biblical design. And we believe God's call to sexual purity applies to everyone—including those who profess to follow Christ.

But holding that conviction never gives us permission to treat anyone with contempt.

Every human being is made in the image of God. We can hold firmly to Scripture while treating people with dignity, listening respectfully, and caring about their souls.

Welcoming someone to hear the Gospel is not the same as affirming every belief or behavior. And loving someone does not require us to pretend that sin doesn't matter.

Our purpose is not to make sin acceptable. Our purpose is to point people to the Saviour.

Alongside, Not Above

And this brings us to something especially important to the heart of Cross & Grace Ministries.

When we share the Gospel, we don't approach someone from above them—as though we have earned a higher place of righteousness. We come alongside them.

Philippians 2:3 tells us, “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.”

That calls for humility, not superiority.

If I stand in front of another person pointing out everything wrong with their life while pretending there is nothing wrong with mine, am I really pointing them to Jesus? Or am I pointing them to myself?

The Gospel is not about how much better I am than someone else. It is about how desperately we both need Christ.

Coming alongside doesn't mean agreeing with everything. It doesn't mean excusing sin or avoiding hard conversations. It means having those conversations honestly, with compassion and humility.

We listen. We remember the mercy God has shown us. And we point toward the One who saves.

We don't stand above people because of our righteousness. We stand alongside them because of God's mercy.

Truth and Grace Together

John 1:14 describes Jesus as “full of grace and truth.”

Not grace without truth. Not truth without grace. Both.

Jesus welcomed conversation with people others avoided, and He called sinners to repentance. He never had to abandon one responsibility to fulfill the other.

Ephesians 4:15 calls us to speak “the truth in love.”

So we have to ask ourselves: if someone hears everything we disapprove of, but never hears us explain the saving work of Jesus Christ, have we faithfully shared the Gospel?

We believe the local church is called to worship, teach the Word, make disciples, and uphold biblical standards. And we believe Christians should be recognizable not only by their convictions, but by humility, patience, and genuine concern for others.

Truth must not become an excuse for cruelty. And compassion must not become an excuse to hide the truth.

Our Responsibility

Jesus commanded His followers to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

He did not tell us to share it only with people who already agree with us.

First Corinthians 3:6 says, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

We can share Scripture, answer questions, listen, and show compassion. But we cannot save someone or force a change of heart. That belongs to God.

People are not projects for us to fix. They are people to love, people to speak honestly with, and people who need to hear about Jesus.

Our responsibility is faithfulness. The results belong to God.

Closing

So what does Cross & Grace Ministries believe?

We believe the Bible is God's Word. We believe Jesus Christ is the only Saviour. We believe sin is real, repentance matters, and salvation is the gift of God's grace through faith in Him.

We believe biblical truth must be taught faithfully. And we believe that truth should be carried with the humility of people who have received mercy themselves.

Romans 5:8 says, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

While we were yet sinners.

If you've been hurt by someone who claimed to follow Christ, I hope you'll consider that people's failures do not change who Jesus is.

If you've never trusted Him as your Saviour, His call is to repent and believe the Gospel. Salvation is not something you earn. It is found in Him.

And if you're already a believer, I hope you'll remember this when you next meet someone whose life or beliefs are different from yours: don't approach them from above. Come alongside them, and point them to Christ.

We will stand on biblical truth. We will extend grace and compassion. And we will point people to Jesus Christ.

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